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Donald S. Ruter

Name (Print)

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Signature

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Robert Mariani	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: April 21, 2004	)	Confirmation No.: Unassigned
	)	
Docket No.: 02104CIP (3600-419-01)	)	

For: A METHOD OF FORMING SINTERED VALVE METAL MATERIAL

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 21, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application on the merits, applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.